Court during a hearing on a suit brought pilots.

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Lane Tried To Smuggle Woman Into Jonestown, Memo Says

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WASHINGTON — A confidential People's Temple memorandum alleges that lawyer Mark Lane attempted to smuggle Memphian Grace Walden, a possible witness in the Martin Luther King assassination, into Jonestown, Guyana, under a false passport.

Lane, who is Miss Walden's attorney and co-guardian, denied the allegations.

The 63-year-old Miss Walden had been subpenaed by the House Assassinations Committee.

Although she never testified, her story was discounted by House investigators because of her long history of mental illness.

The memo was found in the personal files of People's Temple leader Jim Jones at the cult's Jonestown settlement.

The contents of the memo, which was marked "Confidential-Confidential," were made public in an article written by a New York Times reporter in Guyana.

It was prepared by Terri Buford, a San Francisco Temple official, and suggested that Lane had persuaded members of the People's Temple that United States Government authorities wanted to silence Miss Walden.

The memo was addressed to "Jim" and noted, "I got a message over here that you wanted me to tell Mark Lane that he should look into some alternative means of getting Grace Walden to Guyana because the C.I.A. (Central Intelligence Agency) might try to stop her from entering the country. Therefore Mark should try to get her another passport."

"I will relay the message to Mark and see what he says," she wrote. "I will do so in person as I don't feel it is wise to do this over the phone."

The memo continued: "If he (Lane) doesn't have those kind of contacts — do you think we might ought to offer the tampering of Maxine Swaney's passport — we have her passport here and it might be something that would be similar to Grace Walden and also if it doesn't look (like) her, maybe we can swap the pictures.

"The drawback of this would be of course if a traitor were to look at the immigration list, we would be caught in a minute. The good points of this would be we wouldn't run the risk getting caught by a passport on the white market."

Miss Buford went on to detail her own doubts about the issue in the memorandum. "Just a question on my own and I have not discussed this with anyone here — but do you think that given that Grace Walden is a very closely watched person in my opinion that they might as a matter of course follow her all the way to Guyana and catch her in the act of being someone else just by the virtue of the fact of following her," the Jones aide wrote.

Miss Buford later became disenchanted with Jones and left the movement.

Lane said his law partner, April Ferguson, had talked to Miss Buford who said the memo was "completely untrue.